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LETTER DATED 28 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

On 23 and 24 July 1993, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia issued statements in which it alleged that on 23-24 July Azerbaijani aircraft had bombed the frontier towns of Kafan and Vardenis in Armenia. In them, Azerbaijan is accused yet again of attempts to prolong and escalate the war and to draw Armenia into a large-scale war, thereby derailing the peace process.

In the first place, the communications from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia concerning the bombardment of Armenian cities are the latest fabrications by the Foreign Policy Department of Armenia for propaganda purposes. It is all too obvious that Azerbaijan, which is engaged in fighting and bloodshed in order to protect its territory, would never have carried out such acts. On many occasions Azerbaijan has already demonstrated to the entire world its readiness for a political settlement of the conflict and has shown this by responding in a timely and positive way to all peace initiatives proposed at any time in the course of this conflict by international organizations or by individual States.

Secondly, there is no need for Azerbaijan to try to involve Armenia in the war because for the past five years Armenia has been waging this war in Azerbaijani territory, passing it off as the liberation movement of the Armenians of Nagorny Karabakh. Everyone now knows who is fighting against the Azerbaijanis in Karabakh, the source from which the "peaceful" population of the region obtains modern weapons, including aircraft, missiles, armoured vehicles and heavy artillery, and by what means the weapons reach Nagorny Karabakh. Armenia is using every possible means to delay the withdrawal of its troops from the occupied Kelbajar and Lachin districts of Azerbaijan, because it is precisely through these frontier districts that fighting equipment and personnel move in a broad stream from Armenia to Nagorny Karabakh.

As to the imaginary difficulties and "the continuing internal struggles within the Baku leadership", the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia is parading its desires as realities. The mission to the region of the Chairman of the Minsk Conference of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on Nagorny Karabakh, Mr. Raffaelli, did indeed contend with difficulties, but those difficulties came from the Armenian side. Armenia's numerous attempts to reschedule the visit of Mr. Raffaelli's group and to rearrange the itinerary and Armenia's references to what it claims are mined roads between Agdam and Hankendi testify to the true attitude towards the negotiating process of the Armenian side. For some reason, the mined roads did not prevent the Armenian forces from mounting an attack against Agdam and occupying it.

The Foreign Policy Department of Armenia is known for its skill in concocting myths. Thus at one time we had the myth about the blockade of Armenia and the argument about the small defenceless population of Nagorny Karabakh which rose up to fight for its rights; and now we have the latest myth

developed by Armenian propaganda, which is that the Azerbaijani leadership, because of internal difficulties, is unwilling and unable to move towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict. In the mean time, the war on Azerbaijani territory is already five years old and 17 per cent of Azerbaijani land is occupied. Azerbaijan has never had territorial claims vis-à-vis Armenia, and not a single Azerbaijani soldier is on Armenian soil.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic can only qualify these statements by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia as the latest propaganda ploys calculated to mislead the international community.